

July 10, 2006 Steering Committee Comments and Discussion Early Learning Council “Big Ideas”

General

- Think in terms of a ten-year plan, phase-in and prioritization.
- What recommendations require legislation and/or budget?
- Governance—how do we ensure accountability, seamlessness and efficiency?
- Is there money that can be reprogrammed?
- Accountability—how do we demonstrate progress over time?

Steering Committee (SC) Questions/Feedback for the Early Learning Council

- The ELC was complimented on its focus on community level capacity.
- The ELC was also commended for proposing developmentally appropriate curriculum. Important to remember that developmental needs apply throughout education (early learning and beyond).
- Feedback underscored the importance of the “learning to learn idea” as a gigantic step away from seat-time. Think in terms of stages and mastery. Transitions should occur when children are ready for self-directed learning rather than tied to a specific age.
- Need to ensure that bridges exist among Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education.
- Need to make sure child care providers and other caregivers have the tools they need to provide high quality early learning wherever it occurs.
- The Governor indicated her desire for Thrive by Five Partnerships in every county.